

on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

and

5 (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

wherein the tear bar is in a fixed position relative to the path during separation of the strip of media.

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REMARKS

On November 19, 2001, Applicants submitted a response to a Final Office Action. On November 30, 2001, an Advisory Action was mailed to the Applicants. The Advisory Action stated that the proposed amendments were not entered because they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search. Claim 20 remained rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 15 102(b) as being anticipated by Saito et al.

Amendment

By this proposed amendment, claim 20 has been amended to include language that the tear bar and the path do not move relative to each other during separation of the strip of media.

20 This is supported on page 8, lines 10-12 of the application.

Applicants submit that claim 20 is patentable over Saito et. al. because Saito et. al. does not disclose a tear bar and a media path that are in a fixed position relative to each other during separation of the strip of media. Rather, Saito et. al. discloses a tear bar that moves vertically relative to the strip of media to burst or separate the strip of media.

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This Amendment has not been made to overcome the rejections. Applicants believe that the original claims are patentable over the cited reference. Applicants made amendments to obtain early allowance of the application. Applicants also assert that claims are broader and thus *Festo* should not apply.

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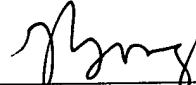
CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the examiner has any questions regarding the application or this response, the examiner is encouraged to call the applicants' agent, Rolando J. Tong, at (775) 826-6160.

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Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING THE CHANGES MADE

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20. (Amended) A tear bar for assisting the separation of a piece of media from a strip of media, the strip of media having a surface, a first and second side, and a center portion, the strip of media being fed along a path, the path being adjacent to the tear bar, the tear bar comprising:

10 (A) a first side portion, the first side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the first side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media; and

15 (B) a second side portion, the second side portion being adapted to abut the surface of the strip of media adjacent to the second side of the strip of media and apply resistance on the strip of media when a longitudinal force is applied to the strip of media;

wherein the tear bar [remains] is in a fixed position relative to the path during [feeding and] separation of the strip of media.